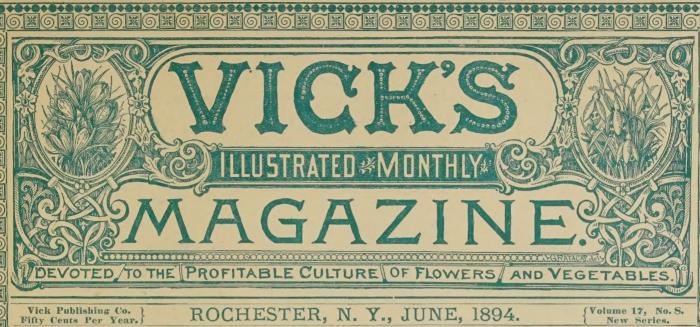
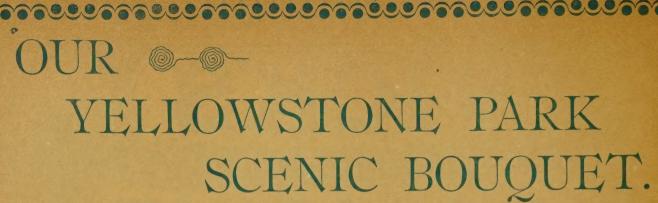
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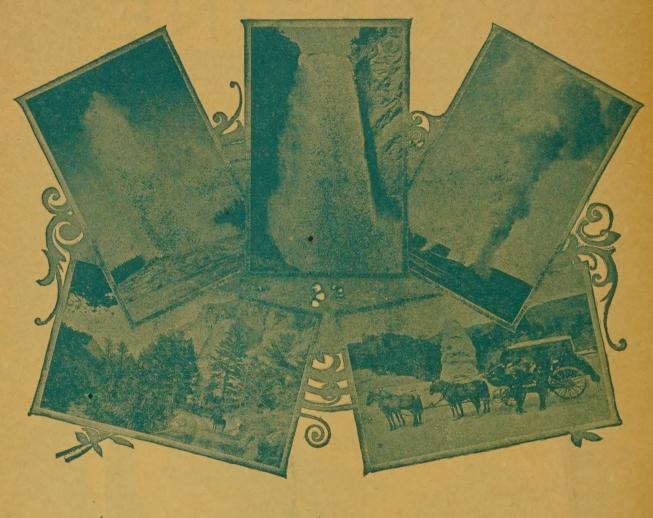
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VICK'S MAGAZINE.

Vol. 17.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., JUNE, 1894.

No. 8.

HEDGE ROSES OF THE SOUTH.

HEN in Louisiana last spring the hedges of roses were objects of interest. They are often seen along the roads and division lines of lots and plantations, and when in bloom are very beautiful. Two strong-growing varieties are used as hedge plants, either growing together

color. The large white flowers will measure about three inches in diameter; the calyx is beset with fine, straight, long prickles at the base. This is the Cherokee rose; or Rosa Sinica of Gray, and of Chapman in his "Southern Flora."

The other rose has a grayish stem, which is more slender than has been described, and the

reddish thorns are slender, straight and in pairs at the base of each leafstalk. The leaves have short petioles and are composed of five to nine leaflets which are of a dark glossy green, subsessile, obovate, finely serrulated, and about three-eighths to a half inch in length. The white flowers are large, usually appearing about the same size as those of the Cherokee rose, though the engraving represents one of a smaller specimen; the petals are more distinctly obcordate than those of the other species. Apparently this answers to the description of Rosa bracteata of Gray's School and Field Book.

Our observations of these plants were made at Baton Rouge. Have the names here mentioned a local misapplication, and is the last named species elsewhere in the South known as the Chickasa rose?



CHEROKEE ROSE, ROSA SINICA.

indiscriminately in the same hedge or separately, and ordinary observers appeared to make no distinction, but spoke of them as Cherokee hedges. Specimens of both kinds were procured and from them have been prepared the engravings here shown, which represent them reduced one half. Inquiring of persons who were more or less interested in plants, and who might be expected to know in regard to these roses, it was learned that the kind with the small leaflets was generally known as the Cherokee rose, and the other was called the Chickasa rose.

The plant with the three large leaflets is correctly described by Gray and by Chapman under the name of Cherokee rose, and it appears strange to find so great a misunderstanding on this point among intelligent people at the South, and who see it and know it familiarly. The stem of this plant is of a grayish color, somewhat woody, stout, canes often growing ten or twelve feet in a season; the spines or prickles are numerous large, flattened, curving downwards, and of a light sienna color. The leaves are in threes; leaflets ovate, acute, finely serrate, smooth and glossy, and of a light yellowish-green



CHICKASA ROSE? ROSA BRACTEATA?

It cannot be possible that the confusion of these names should be general, for the Cherokee rose is an old favorite, and renowned in the literature of sentiment and song. We are confident that some of our readers will be able to account in some way for the exchange of names, and if correspondents from different parts of the South will report on this subject a better understanding will be the result.

OUR FEATHERED HELPERS.

OUR choicest blessings are often poured forth so freely that we do not appreciate them till withheld. In no occupation is this more true than that of the farmer or gardener. He must do his very best in preparing the soil, sowing seed, destroying weeds and cultivating the young plants, but if Mother Nature withholds her aid he has, indeed, a sorry time. Yet we unwittingly thwart her in some of her most beneficent enterprises. Most farmers would feel not only deeply insulted but basely slandered if accused of grudging the laborer his daily bread, yet there are hundreds in this land who are guilty of the charge.

I speak now in defense of the feathered laborers who migrate from place to place, some of them lending their aid during the entire year, others, unable to endure our rigorous climes, spending their winters in the sunny South and returning with the first warm breezes to assist Dame Nature in arranging her toilet after her winter nap. They are a nimble, cheerful, earnest, musical band, always busy early and late, rain or shine, and the only remuneration they ask is sufficient food for themselves and their helpless little ones. If they have pride they may well be content with the sleek, glossy, wellcared-for robe, which vies with the gorgeousness of the Tyrian monarch, or the softness and delicácy of a Raphael's or Titians' touch. True, they are not a progressive race. New styles of architecture have for them no charm. Each. with the old fashioned saw and trowel, which he always furnishes himself, neatly fashions his house after the same model used by his good old ancestor who sailed with Noah.

And how are these industrious little bodies rewarded? "There's them pesky birds again, down on the corn field, Jonny; you go and scare them off." More tangible missiles than remarks then assail them. The farmer thinks they are after corn, but it is usually worms they seek, and if they do uproot a few hills, what is that compared with the ravages of the cut-worm? It is even doubted if that despised vagrant, the crow, is not really a friend. Audubon says: "The crow devours myriads of grubs every day of the year, that might lay waste the farmers' fields." And again, after speaking of its pernicious habit of destroying the eggs of other birds, he says: "I can well assure the farmer that were it not for its race thousands of corn stalks would every year fall prostrate in consequence of being cut over close to the ground by the destructive grubs which are called cut-

There are many of the feathered tribe that have the good qualities attributed by this eminent naturalist to the crow, without the objectionable ones. The woodpecker, although so inviting in personal appearance, has been the target for the small boy's old shot-gun ever since the invention of small boys who carried shotguns. Yet close observers of its habits are becoming each year more convinced that it is not such a vagabond as was once supposed. It is better to remove a thorn from the flesh, even if a small wound must be made, than to leave it there to fester and poison the whole system, and our skillful little surgeon only punctures the bark that he may remove its destroyer. One writer says that he observed several Scotch pines which had been thus pierced and the resinous life blood was oozing out from their many wounds. Surely, thought he, this bird deserves not to be treated as a respectable one. The next spring one of the trees was dead, and on examining it he found that the inner bark of the upper part of the trunk and some of the larger limbs had been reduced to fine sawdust by worms. In this instance the enemy was too firmly established to be overcome, but probably the other trees escaped a similar fate by the timely interference of the woodpecker.

But let us now test the working power of some of our musicians. One of the most pleasing little songsters is the yellow warbler, which seems to desire the acquaintance and protection of man, being seldom found in the forest, but choosing rather the trees and shrubbery of lawn and garden. Its small cup-shaped nest, constructed in the upright fork of some tree or bush, is firmly built of vegetable fiber, spiders' webs, etc., with a soft downy lining. The eggs, four or five in number, of a greenish-white, mottled with shades of brown and lilac, are about the size of those of the house-wren. It is said to feed entirely upon insects, consequently can do no possible harm, but an immense amount of good, aside from the pleasure its song affords. Everyone is familiar with robin red-breast, that saucy little mischief, who will take the largest cherries right out from under your nose without that much abridged expression of gratitude, "thanks." He is even sometimes so impudent as to scold vociferously when you try to maintain your own rights by remaining in his favorite tree. But let us see if he has not a just claim to a share of the fruit. Early in the spring he may be seen industriously following the plow or harrow, and woe be to the worm or grub in his path. Careful observations show that that the young nestling requires a daily allowance of animal food equivalent to considerable more than its own weight. This statement may seem startling, yet everyone who has noticed them will recall the Oliver Twist nature. They are always eager for "more." The parent bird's food is also largely insectivorous at this time. Remembering that we have millions of pairs of robins raising two, and sometimes three, broods each season, it will be seen that the number of insects destroyed is incalculable. This merit alone should give the robin a place as secure and honored as that of the stork in olden times. But he has some musical ability. Someone has truly said "without his sweet notes the mornings would be like a vernal landscape without flowers or a summer evening sky without tints.

RUTH RAYMOND.

A SEED.

What mystery of mysteries
Is hidden in this tiny seed
No larger than a grain of sand!
I, wondering, hold it in my hand
And try the mystery to read
That's hidden in this little seed.
If I could see its leaves expand
While holding it within my hand,
Its roots drink of the sparkling dews,
Its buds take on the rainbow hues,
The why and how could I explain?
The miracle would still remain.

-R. C. BARNES.

PRESERVING CUT FLOWERS.

of teaching." Much depends upon the time of day in which flowers are culled. During the night moisture is taken up by the plants and the cellular tissues of flowers are filled; also the dew of the night lies damp upon their petals, hence the best time to cut them is the early morning before the sun has risen to evaporate the moisture.

During the day when the sun has shone for hours, and they have stood exposed to the drying effects of heat, flowers will sometimes wilt or droop on the growing plant, and if cut during these hours are not well prepared to retain their fresh form and color. But flowers are tractable and sweet under any adverse treatment, and even if gathered at high noon when their beautiful heads are drooping beneath the glare of the sun will revive, and by their fragrance and brightness still perform their gentle ministries for the hand that culled them, with the lesser advantage, however, of retaining their freshness for a shorter period than if cut in the twilight hours.

The evening twilight is also, for some kinds, advantageous; the eglantine, or sweet brier, for instance, the buds of which if cut at this hour and with the aromatic, sweetly perfumed stems and leaves placed in *serviettes* or shallow glass dishes in the boudoir or sitting room, will by morning have expanded to wide open, fresh, pretty pink roses, displaying the cluster of gold colored stamens in the heart of each. They remain fresh for double the length of time they would if cut from the plant during the day when in full bloom.

A good deal, too, depends upon the stage of development of the flowers when cut. Roses all do better if in bud or, at farthest, not fully open, lasting much longer before they shatter.

Then, the after care of flowers in vases, or designs for decoration, merits consideration, and the peculiarities of the different flowers demand treatment suited to those peculiarities. The heliotrope, which for exquisite fragrance is a standard of comparison among flowers of choicest perfume, has hard woody stems that do not absorb water with sufficient rapidity to counterbalance the evaporation of moisture from the bloom, for which reason this popular flower cannot be depended upon to remain fresh long enough to take a prominent place in floral work. One restorative measure applies to the heliotrope as well as all other flowers that show signs of fading, and that is to clip off the ends of the stems when they have become somewhat calloused. Also inserting the stems in hot water will revive withered flowers.

Sprinkling is not to be recommended as a

rule, but sometimes is beneficial. All depends upon how it is done. Deal gently with the fair frail things and spray or sprinkle them so the water will fall in tiniest drops upon their soft petals. And with the lily, the nasturtium, sweet pea, and all of such depth, sprinkle so the drops will fall deep into the throat or neck, and with roses and carnations so the water will penetrate to the base of the petals.

Chrysanthemums are almost independent of further care than having their stems inserted in water. They last long and are to be highly recommended as cut flowers. Likewise the violet needs but little care, and sweet peas are a continual surprise, so long do they remain fresh and bright.

The water for cut flowers should be soft. Rain water when obtainable is to be desired. A pinch of bicarbonate of soda will soften the water, and hard water is no more to be desired for cut flowers than for the sheer, befrilled cambrics, snowy linens, and fleecy flannels of the laundry.

MRS. G. T. DRENNAN.

THOSE TROUBLESOME BOYS.

COME say when they see a small trousered leg over the fence "Get down and go away!" or "Don't swing on that gate or I shall take a switch to you!" and your garden is apt to have a sly visit from that boy and more or less damage follows to your most precious plants or your cherished fruit is taken. After much of this painful experience I tried a new plan and am delighted with its success. If I see a boy on my fence I say, "Come in, and see what I have to show you." His look of astonishment at my smiling invitation is changed to delight when he is led up to the tub holding a water hyacinth. If it is in bloom the exquisite flower attracts him, if not, the green air pods at the base of each leaf, making the plant float around like a boat, engages his attention. Then there is the curious climber, Momordica. The flower is small, but the seed pod has a curious warty appearance that may burst while you look at it, scattering the seeds and showing the scarlet interior. Near by are the airy little balloons belonging to the vine of that name, these always please a boy. A shell flower, too, with its green flowers that can hardly be told from the leaves, is interesting. But if you want to win his heart give him some of the seed pods of the martynia. Let him scrape off the outside skin with his pen knife and see the two queer horns that appear, and tell him one of its names is devil's purse. Perhaps you have a "give-away bed," where slips of all kinds are easily rooted. Consider it a missionary effort to give your visiting boys. however ragged, slips, seeds or a bunch of flowers; you may have a two-fold blessing, your own garden may have fewer visits from these little pilferers, and perhaps the neglected back yards of their homes may be improved. I gave one boy a bunch of my choice roses. Not long after I heard the noise of a fight outside my gate. The boys were pulled apart and one said, "You gave me the flowers, ma'am, and I wouldn't let Mike hook your peaches." ANNA LYMAN.

Don't put pots on the ground unless you have four or five inches of coal ashes under them. If you do worms will work their way into the pots through the hole in the bottom.

FLOWERS FOR COMPANY.

HERE is a pretty story of a French prisoner who was saved from despair, and finally restored to freedom, by the influence of a little flower. More than that, through the little plant he regained a trust in God. It was in the time of Napoleon I, and Charney, the prisoner, was arrested because he was thought to be an enemy to the government. He found his little cell, and the court yard with the high wall around it, where he was allowed to walk, very lonely. Many unhappy thoughts visited him; some of these he wrote on the wall, among them, "There is no God." One day, as he was pacing back and forth in the little court yard, he saw a little break among the stones, and he thought his friends were coming to his relief by working underground. A friend was coming to help him, but not one of those he expected. Soon a little plant sprang up among the loosened stones. Charney became much interested in it. It was company for him in his loneliness. He cherished it with the greatest care, and even sheltered it in rough weather by stooping over it. The story of his devotion to the plant reached the ears of Empress Josephine. She loved flowers, and so became interested in the prisoner, and through her influence he finally secured his freedom. His love for the little plant taught him also to believe in God, its creator.

If that poor little plant, growing under such unfavorable conditions, was so good a friend to the lonely prisoner, what possibilities of companionship do the beautiful plants that are now within our reach promise? A few months ago I met a lovely young lady, who came from the land of Linnæus, the Swedish botanist, and who said he would rather have a little flower named for him than to have a fine monument erected to his memory. This young lady did not find in her own country the opportunities she desired. so left her home friends, and with three companions, came to the United States. After a time she was separated from these friends, a good position as teacher being offered her at some distance from the place where they were employed. In her new situation she was able to have plants in her school room, and a small bed of flowers in the court. They were great company for her. She knew their habits and their language, and she spent much time among them. Some one said they grew for her as for no one else. That may have been true, for roses are not the only flowers that flourish best for those who have them "in their hearts." The young teacher said her garden saved her from homesickness. By its help she was able to carry out bravely the programme of work and study she had planned for herself, although the ocean was between her and her nearest friends. She showed me a little pressed flower named for the great Linnæus, for the botanist had his beautiful wish fulfilled. If I remember rightly it was a delicate little blossom, which she said was very lovely when seen growing in her own country.

At one of our large charity schools there are a number of cripples. At one time one among them had no strength whatever in his legs, being unable to stand even for a moment. These "poor limpers," as their school mates call them, out of school hours live at the hospital, because, though



THE CHAPEL OAK OF ALLONVILLE.

LD TREES often become objects of veneration, and sometimes when old age begins to show plainly its destructive effects upon their trunks and branches the devotees of these grand works of nature resort to various means to prolong their lives, with which are frequently connected memories of events related to the neighboring inhabitants, or events of state. The love of nature and the admiration for crees is growing among our people, and with the increase of these sentiments the axe will be more judiciously and less indiscriminately used. Here is an account of an ancient oak in the burial ground of Allonville, France:

"Above the roots it measures upward of thirty-five feet around, and at six feet from the ground twenty-six feet. A little higher up it extends to a greater size, and at eight feet from the ground enormous branches spring from the sides and spread outward so that they cover with their shade a vast extent. The height of the tree does not answer to its circumference. The trunk, from the roots to the summit, forms a complete cone, and the inside of this cone is hollow throughout the whole of its height. Several openings, the largest of which is at the bottom, form the entrance to this cavity. All the inside parts have long been destroyed; it is only by the outer layers of the alburnum, and by the bark, that this venerable tree is supported, yet it is still full of life and covered with leaves and acorns. The hand of man has endeavored to impress upon it a character still more interesting than it was in its natural state by adding a religious feeling to the respect which its age naturally inspires. The lower part of this hollow trunk has been transformed into a chapel six or seven feet in diameter, carefully wainscotted and paved, and with an iron gate to guard the humble sanctuary. Above and close to the chapel is a small chamber containing a bed, and leading to it there is a staircase which twists around the trunk of the tree. At certain seasons of the year divine service is performed at this chapel. The summit has been broken off many years, but there is a surface at the top of the trunk of the diameter of a very large tree, and from it rises a pointed roof covered with slates, in the form of a steeple, which is surmounted by an iron cross that raises itself in a very picturesque manner from the middle of the leaves, like an antique hermitage, above the surrounding wood. The cracks which occur in the various parts of the tree are, like the fracture from which the steeple springs, closely covered with slates, which, by replacing the bark, doubtless contribute to its preservation. Over the entrance to the chapel th

not really ill, they are liable to get hurt if they mingle with the other boys in their rougher sports. But they have their little gardens, and find pleasant company in the gay nasturtiums, marigolds, four-o'-clocks and morning glories. They have the pleasure of giving, for a flower is always a beautiful gift. At the hospital is a German woman, the tale of whose sorrows would fill a large volume. She, too, enjoys the company of flowers, and in her broken English will try to thank the boys "a thousand times" by saying "I thank you for more."

I once had a neighbor whose busy life did not furnish much leisure for visits or calls, but she took time to cultivate the company of flowers, and their beauty filled her rooms with glory and saved her life from dullness. They were a constant source of pleasure, and when at last she grew too old and feeble to even hold the blossoms in her hand she said to those near her.

"You may know that I am very sick since I cannot hold the flowers."

Plants are not only company, but they are companionable company, if I may use that expression. They make no remarks that are like the pricking of pins and needles; they do not depress us or tempt us; instead, they appeal to the better side of our nature. "Flowers help me," I heard a young lady say one day, "they make me strong," and with the beautiful blossoms beside her she found it possible to smile, although the father she dearly loved had been laid to rest but a short time before.

Unless some stern necessity compels it do not allow yourself to be wholly shut out from the company of flowers. Until you begin to cultivate their society you cannot imagine what possibilities of pleasure, what delightful surprises, what helpful thoughts, they will give you.

"In all places, then, and in all seasons, Flowers expand their light and soul-like wings; Teaching us by most persuasive reasons How akin they are to human things."

EVELYN S. FOSTER.

THIS, THAT AND THE OTHER ABOUT FLOWERS.

QURELY if among white flowers there is any one variety of hardy herbaceous plants that has more recommendations to favor, or has received less deserved recommendation than anemone alba. I do not know what it is, and for this reason, if for no other, I am delighted to see the announcement of a double-flowering variety among this season's novelties. That it can be more deserving than the single variety I am by no means ready to concede. But if it has anything like as many good qualities it will be a decided acquisition; and whether it has or no, it will at least serve to attract attention to my old favorite. Anemone alba, or wind flower, is a strong growing, healthy plant, with attractive habit and handsome foliage; it blooms profusely, and at a time when we are almost entirely dependent upon annuals (from September to November); the flowers are pure white with golden yellow centers, exquisitely shaped, and borne singly and in clusters on long graceful stems. They may be grown as pot plants, but are more effective as a bordering for flower beds, or in masses, preferably the latter. The roots grow close to the surface of the ground, and after enriching in the spring by spading in the well rotted manure that was used as a covering during winter, a judicious letting alone, merely pulling out the weeds and watering, gives the best

Writing of this old favorite reminds me of another, a flowering shrub, that, if appreciated as its merits deserve, would beautify our homes more effectually than a profusion of anemones, either single or double, and that is Hall's Japan honeysuckle. The plant is a strong, vigorous grower, with luxuriant handsome foliage that is light, soft green when young, but grows darker with age, and the deliciously fragrant flowers are pure white, changing to soft yellow. A well grown plant will be covered with flowers from July until late in November, and the leaves will retain their greenness a month longer. They should be planted in rich soil, the grass kept down for a distance of at least two feet around the base of the stems and this space covered plentifully with well rotted manure in the fall and spaded in when spring comes. If planted close to a house wall water plentifully during dry, hot weather. They do not root at the joints or throw out tendrils that will fasten themselves to any sort of support, but if the main branches are secured to position the side ones are easily trained around them. For ornamenting piazzas, balconies, unsightly fences, and the like, it has no equal among climbing flowering shrubs. Others are as beautiful in themselves, perhaps more so, but this is not enough. In choosing ornamental flowering vines, especially for piazzas and balconies, as in deciding upon the interior decorations for a house, a thing must also be considered in relation to its immediate surroundings, and the delicate coloring of this species of honeysuckle is sure to blend harmoniously with, or to tone down, the strong colors so often seen on houses, which such highly colored, showy flowers as clematis Jackmanii often intensify, and by this incongruity make ugly.

Everybody knows and appreciates the beauty

of ampelopsis, American ivy, or Virginia creeper, as it is commonly called, but another variety of ampelopsis, vetchii (Japan creeper, or Boston ivy, as it is variously known), is seldom seen outside of lrage towns, though no plant is so effective for covering walls, stumps of trees, rockeries, etc. The leaves are much smaller than the American, and overlap each other, forming a dense sheet of green, which changes to crimson scarlet in autumn. The plant is a little tender and slow of growth when young, and needs protection, but once established there is no further risk. It should be planted in rich soil and cared for as recommended above. Indeed, no kind of vine will make a luxuriant growth unless well cared for and fertilized. The roots cling tenaciously to anything it touches, and after the second year it grows very rapidly. This ivy also makes a most effective screen for verandas when trained over fine wire netting.

When rapid growth is especially desirable Clematis Virginiana (American white clematis), is far more effective than the coarser vines that are oftener used. A strong plant will grow twenty feet in one season, and be covered with a mass of white blossoms in August.

Can the busy housewife, who grows flowers mainly for the sake of having cut ones to beautify her rooms with, choose a more satisfactory annual than the old fashioned dwarf nasturtium with its newer and more delicate colorings? Not to my thinking, for it not only has a distinctive beauty all its own, of foliage as well as flowers, but a wholesome spicy fragrance, which renders it especially agreeable for dining table decoration. It flowers most profusely when grown on light soil. The cut flowers retain their freshness for several days, and are most effective when used alone and with their own foliage. The leaves are very effective for garnishing cold meats or salads, and make delicious hot weather sandwiches.

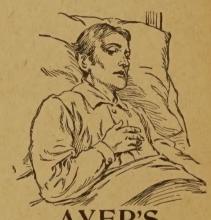
Artistic lawn vases, whether made of marble. iron, or a wooden butter tub ornamented with bark or grape vine, supply a means of growing plants in small yards, if they are well cared for; but alas, and alas! they are often but a "delusion and a snare." If you have one don't fill it with choice plants without any idea as to the color combination, or with too many of even the most desirable sorts. Don't fail to have plenty of drooping vines of such graceful sorts as German and coliseum ivy, othonna, and variegated vines. And don't set it directly in the sun or fail to water it every day unless it rains.

In making bouquets of cut flowers most women of good taste try to combine harmonious colors, but for some unaccountable reason those same women will plant a bed of geraniums that is a fighting medley of scarlet, rose, salmon, and other incongruous colors. If you have done so don't defeat your own efforts in this way again. If you have not enough plants of one color, or of colors that will blend harmoniously together, to make even small beds, grow them in some other way. One handsome plant standing alone has far more artistic beauty than a hit-or-miss bed of fifty well grown specimens. For lack of désirable space for beds I use long, narrow and deep boxes, and by far the most effective one grown last year held only a border of luxuriant

German ivy and the rapidly growing ivy geranium Camille Flammarion, (the latter was never allowed to bloom,) and in the center eight plants of most exquisitely shaded peach-blow colored geraniums Souvenir de Mirande, and the single white ones Perle and La Vestale.

Another practice, not so common but even incomprehensible, is that of spending one's money, time and strength in growing flowers from mixed seeds. Not seeds of different colors or species of the same variety of flower, but a medley of kinds as well as colors, as marigolds, larkspurs, amaranthus, poppies, Sweet Williams, portulaca, etc., etc. Now, while I am firmly of the opinion that if every overworked housewife could spend one hour a day for six months of the year in working out of doors among flowers she would find it a surer panacea for impatience, fretfulness, worriment and the blues, than any remedy in the whole materia medica, yet I believe such a medley bed of flowers would exhaust the nervous force of a healthy woman, and be the "last straw" for jaded nerves.

KATHERINE B. JOHNSON.



AYER'S Cherry Pectoral SAVED HIS LIFE

So says Mr. T. M. Reed, a highlyrespected Merchant of Mic dletown, Ill., of a Young Man who was supposed to be in Consumption.

"One of my customers, some years ago, had a son who had all the symptoms of consumption. The usual medicines afforded him no relief, and he steadily failed until he was unable to leave his bed. His mother applied to me for some remedy and I recommended Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. The young man took it according to directions, and soon began to improve until he became well and strong."—T. M. REED, Middletown, Ill.

"Some time ago, I caught a severe cold, my throat and lungs were badly inflamed, and I had a terrible cough. It was supposed that I was a victim of consumpthat I was a victim of consumption, and my friends had little hope of recovery. But I bought a bottle of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, took it, and was entirely cured. No doubt, it saved my life."—I. Jones, Emerts Cove, Tenn.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral Received Highest Awards AT THE WORLD'S FAIR

A SPRING WALK.

Nature's beauty is not found In the garden's measured bound; From a geometric shape Unzoned chastities escape; Tinted cheeks and speaking eyes Flee the gazing, blazing skies. These, and more, doth nature yield Only in the grove and field.

On the slope of sun-kissed mound Small dicentras gem the ground; Where the bittersweet entwines With the honeysuckle vines You shall find the dainty Of the bloodroot looking up Ivory cups as white as snow Earliest, too, as wood-bees know.

Here the mouse's-ear we see, There Claytonia's modesty Violets which match in hue With the overarching blue; Adder-tongues in countless ranks Glorify a thousand banks. Everywhere, where'er we go Buds are peeping, posies blow.

Flowers there are, too, on the wing, Feather-blossoms,—hear them sing! Chewinks, sparrows, rusty thrushes, With glad carols fill the bushes; Round they run, each tinkling note Sweeter far than shepherd's oat. Prima donnas, maestros all, Red or blue, or large or small. Hither come no jarring sounds—Love, and only love, abounds.

All the songs are airs of love, Sung by dryads of the grove. Stealeth no discordant measure-Every flower a perfect pleasure, And our steps delight to stray Mid such beauty every day

-Edward B. Heaton.

SUCCESS WITH DAHLIAS.

PERHAPS no plant which decorates our gardens gives greater profusion of bloom than the dahlia. The flowers begin to come in midsummer and continue to improve in beauty each week till they are cut off by the frosts of late October. Last season was very favorable for this plant in our locality, and, as a result of a little care and attention, we were ovewhelmed with the great quantities of blooms. The little pompon, the exquisite show, and the mammoth cactus varieties, seemed to vie with each other in standard of excellence. My stock last season consisted of 140 plants, comprising over forty varieties, and much of the time throughout the fall months I picked as many as three bushel basketsful a week. These great quantities of beautiful flowers were used to decorate the various churches and the public library of our town, and to cheer the homes of the sick. Even our local newspaper took up the subject and commented upon these beauties of nature. So complete was my success that I feel it a duty to tell it to your many readers, as we are all friends in horticultural matters, each admiring the various success that attends the others, and sympathizing in each other's failures:

Beginning the season about March 20th, I take my roots from the storage in the cellar and put them out in cold frames to sprout. They thus come along slowly till the middle of May, when I take them out and divide the roots, leaving only one strong shoot or stalk to a root, and plant out in the garden. My garden is a light sandy loam therefore I am obliged to plant deep. The most favorable soil for this plant is a clay loam well lightened by manure. "Whatever the soil may be it should be dug deep and cultivated often, and if the soil is light mulch well du-

ring drought. Care should be taken in planting to give sufficient room so that the plants will not crowd. A distance of three or four feet is not too much. Stakes should be provided, and these should be strong, and should vary in height, so that when they are set deep they will come a little below the top of the plant. Tall growing varieties often attain a height of seven feet. Even the dwarf pompon varieties need staking, not so much to hold them up but to support them during heavy winds, especially like those we had in August last, when mine would have been blown out of the ground if it had not been for the supports; as it was, some loosened from the stakes and fell flat on the ground and were snapped off like pipe stems. Such roots are destroyed thereafter, for that season at least.

HENRY C. TOWNSEND.

Wappinger's Falls, N. Y.

VIBURNUMS.

HE species and varieties of viburnums are hardy deciduous shrubs which grow from five to twenty feet in height, producing their very showy pure white flowers in cymes during the months of May and June. All of them are desirable, though some are more ornamental and more deservedly popular than others.

To enable the plants to develop properly they should be given an open, sunny situation and a deep well enriched soil, and while the plants are small grass or weeds should not be permitted to grow around or near them, and all plants, whether large or small, should be given a top dressing of good stable manure annually. The manure should be applied in the fall, and as much of it as possible be dug in around the plants the ensuing spring. During the season of growth it is well to examine them occasionally and train the leading shoots so that well shaped specimens can be formed. This will render severe pruning quite unnecessary, yet the old growth should be occasionally thinned out and root sprouts removed as soon as they appear. Whenever it becomes necessary to prune severely let it be done after they have ceased blooming, then the old wood may be removed or cut back, thus promoting the growth of the new, which is to flower the following season. I advise cultivators, however, to let the shrubs assume their own natural forms, merely pinching back the leading shoots occasionally so as to keep them within proper bounds.

Virburnum dentatum is popularly known as the "arrow wood." It grows from eight to twelve feet in height and has curiously cut leaves. It blooms in June, and the pure white flowers are succeeded by berries which assume a beautiful blue color during the autumn months. V. lantana is popularly known as the "wayfaring tree," and forms a large robust shrub with soft heavy leaves and large clusters of white flowers in May, which are succeeded by red fruit, becoming black in the fall. It also retains its foliage very late. V. lantanoides, the "hobble bush," is a handsome native species, growing about five feet in height. It is of a spreading habit. It blooms in May, and the flowers are succeeded by fruit which is at first coral red and afterwards bright crimson. V. nudum is commonly known as the "wythe rod," or "possum haw." It attains a height of ten or twelve feet,

and has oval almost lanceolate leaves. It blooms from April to June, and the blossoms are succeeded by roundish fruit of a bluish color. which is edible when ripe. V. opulis is the "high" or "bush" cranberry. It grows from eight to twelve feet in height and blooms in June. This species is both ornamental and useful, as its bright red berries, which resemble cranberries, are highly esteemed by many. They are, however, very acid, and hang until destroyed by frost late in the fall. V. opulis sterilis is the well known common "snowball," or "guelder rose." It is a favorite shrub, of large size, bearing globular clusters of pure white sterile flowers. It blooms about the first of June. V. plicatum is the Japan snowball. It is a native of the north of China, and is a shrub of moderate size, of upright growth, with rich green leaves. It blooms in profusion during the month of June, and the pure white flowers are borne in globular clusters and remain a long time in perfection. V. prunifolium is the plum-leaved viburnum. It is commonly known as "black haw." It grows from ten to fifteen feet in height and has glossy green foliage. It flowers freely in the months of May and June, and the flowers are succeeded by blackish, oval, edible fruit. V. pyrifolium is the pear-leaved viburnum. It is a native shrub, with pure white fragrant flowers. It is the last of all to bloom, being about ten days later than the others. V. rugosum, the rough leaved viburnum, is evidently a variety of V. lantana. It has larger and rougher leaves, and is more ornamental, both in flowers and fruit. Flowers white, produced in terminal cymes during the month of May.

CHAS. E. PARNELL.

Floral Park, N. Y.

Too Many Roses.-Flower raising about Chicago has reached enormous proportions. Edgar Sanders, the well known horticulturist, estimates that there are in and about that city two million five hundred thousand square feet of glass, and that most of it is devoted to the raising of roses and carnations. He thinks it is no wonder that roses are to be seen everywhere on the streets, and even offered from door to door. He advises florists to direct their attention to a greater variety of plants, and thinks as much is to be made by raising other kinds, and thus the market may be saved; otherwise the prospect is it will be too low to afford





In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, of to publish the experiences of our readers. JAMES VICK

Tritoma.

Years ago I obtained a plant from the house of the lamented James Vick, Sr. It was set in a garden surrounded by a high fence and in very rich soil. It bloomed and was the wonder and admiration of every passer-by. I'did not admire its dull red, but otherwise it was superb for a stiff stalked flower

Sanseviera Zealanica.

Please state in your "Letter Box" column of the Magazine whether the decorative Sanseviera Zealan-ica will do well in the sun. Mrs. J. B. S. ica will do well in the sun.

Yes, will do well in sun, but should remain in pot in window or greenhouse.

Diseased Geraniums.

Two years ago some plants growing in a vase were attacked by this peculiar disease described in Monthly. Other plants of the same species not one foot from them showed no sign of the disease. I had used on this vase both bone meal and phosphate and liquid on this vase both bone meal and phosphate and liquid hen manure. The growth was immense, but in a short time all the beauty perished. I begin to believe since my experience that the proverb "Learn to labor and to wait," is best. I am of the opinion that overforcing is the chief cause of non-success in house culture. We should study the nature of our plants. I had a magnificent pansy bed last spring and wanted a finer one, so I used phosphate freely. The result was a grand show but the loss of every plant. Burn up all diseased plants and disinfect pots. M. A. H.

Stapelia-Acacia.

Please tell us, in Magazine, how to treat Stapelia variegata to get blooms.

Also treatment of Fern Tree Acacia, and whether it ever blooms, and, if so, at what age. E. D. K.

The Stapelias should be potted in light soil with plenty of drainage. In winter it is best to keep them rather dry, and in a light, airy place, fully exposed to the sun. In summer keep them in a warm sheltered place in the open air, and water freely. Keep the Acacia in the open air during summer, watering freely. Winter in the greenhouse.

Hardy Climbing Vine.

What would you recommend for a hardy climbing vine for a porch (acing the east? MRS. M. P. S. Springfield, Mass.

Clematis paniculata is a hardy climber that produces fragrant, pure white, star-shaped flowers about one inch in diameter. These flowers are borne in large clusters on stiff stems from five to six inches long, late in summer after other clematis are through flowering. Ampelopsis Veitchii clings closely and will soon be a perfect mass of foliage. Honeysuckles, Dutchman's pipe and wistaria are all good for such a position. I should advise planting some annual climbers in between them the first year to make you shade the first summer, such as variegated hop, Brazilian morning glory, Ipomœa sinuata, morning glory, etc.

A New Hand at the Business.

I have only been keeping house plants about a year, I have only been keeping house plants about a year, and am a new hand at the business; have a new house with square bay at the south side of dining room, and my plants are lovely ones, everyone admires them. One day of each week I take them all down from the shelves, set them on the oil-cloth and give them a complete showering with a sprinkler, and see that they have what water they need each day. Am a reader of Vick's Magazine, and that is where I get the most of my information. Last winter I had a Chinese Sacred Lily which bloomed nicely, but that was the last of it. Now, I would like to know where

and how these bulbs are grown. Also what is the MRS. I. G. B. best fertilizer for house plants.

Floris, Iowa.

The new hand has started in well. If one is willing to give plants some attention and care there will be few complaints to make. The Chinese narcissus bulbs are raised in China and brought to this country in great numbers every year. New bulbs should be procured every fall. Almost any of the best known commercial fertilizers are good for house plants.

Cosmos as a House Plant.

I think that some correspondent in the Magazine, a short time ago, objected to cosmos as a house plant on account of its size. Let me tell you of my experience with it last year. I sowed the seed, purchased from you, in March, in the house, and had quite large plants to put out in the garden when the weather became warm enough. The plants were growing thriftily when, in August, or possibly the first of September, a high wind broke off several large branches two feet or more in length. Instead of throwing them away, one was set out in earth in a flower pot, and the others were merely stuck into the ground in a moist part of the garden, and received no further in a moist part of the garden, and received no further attention. I think that all, or nearly all, grew right along, and when the plants were brought into the house in the fall they were not over three feet tall, and were full of buds and blossoms.

This was not my first experience with large branches of cosmos as slips, and with success. The only fault I find with it as a house plant is that it so quickly becomes covered with green lice. I had to throw mine away before it had done blooming.

Foxboro, Mass.

A. B. C.

Wintering Canna Roots.

My indoor-blooming collection of hyacinths has been much admired. Every bulb but one had two large spikes of bloom, and they have been in full flower for six weeks. A friend tells me she has sent two years for bulbs and has not had a flower; the bulbs have all decayed, commencing at the center What was the cause? I am about discouraged in try-What was the cause? I am about discouraged in trying to keep canna roots over winter in anything but a
growing state. Cannot afford to buy every year and
lose them in wintering. Last year I set them in garden soil in the cellar; this year packed them in perfectly dry sand, together with dahlias and tuberoses,
in the cellar. All have kept nicely except the cannas.
Please give your thoughts upon the subject in Maga-

Oswell, N. Y.

The new French canna roots do not keep as well over winter as the old common varieties. It is a good way to keep them growing all winter, cutting them back occasionally. They will not keep in a cold place, and if kept dormant it is well to put them in dry sand in a warm room. The hyacinths blooming so freely proves that the bulbs were all right. The fault must be with the care your friend gave her hyacinth bulbs.

Propagating Roses,

Propagating Roses.

I see, in the April number, that Mrs. B. W. G. asks how to root cuttings of roses. Whoever is willing to try my method I should like to have know about my practice. My roses are mostly hybrids. I choose a nice sunny place and good mellow soil; take a trowel and make a small hole in the ground about four inches deep and fill with sand. Then cut with a sharp knife a slip about four inches long from this year's growth of wood,—a slip with a bud at the base is the surest, but not of necessity to have it grow; cut off the bud and the lower leaves, leaving a leaf or two at the top, put the slip in about half its length and water freely, and cover it with a whole glass fruit-jar. Bring the earth up close around it at the bottom. Several slips or cuttings can be placed under each jar. In a few weeks they will be growing, and then it may be known that they are rooted. The soil must not be allowed to get dry, as that will spoil all. When they put out new leaves the cans can be removed and they will be all the sweeter for fruit. I root carnations and chrysanthemums, and, in fact, I never tried anything that would not root in this way. Moss roses do not root as easily as others. Now, if one will follow my directions he can have plenty of roses, and will become so in love with them that he will want all the new kinds, so the florists will be the gainers in the end. I put down thirty slips last year and almost every one down thirty slips last year and almost every one

lived. I have tried many ways, among them that of layering, as described in the answer to Mrs. B. W. G. Rome, N. Y.

Garden Queries.

How can one know where to set the trap to catch

Do the bulbs of Amaryllis Johnsonii break up into small bulbs like hyacinths? My bulbs are very large, last year they had eleven leaves apiece. Now two of them have small leaves growing out of the side of the

At what time of year does Crinum Americanum bloom if kept in the sun during winter? Will it do as well if put in a light cellar over winter?

What is the proper treatment for English ivy inpots? What nourishment can be given to keep them-

Northford Conn

The mole trap is set over the runway. The makers of the different kinds of mole traps send printed directions with the traps.

Young bulbs of amaryllis grow at the side of the old one; the small leaves mentioned arise: from little young bulbs.

Crinum Americanum blooms in summer. During winter it should have but little water, but be fully exposed to the sun. It would not be well to winter it in a cellar.

English ivy grows very freely in pots in ordinary good soil kept moderately moist. A plant in pot should be given a top dressing of fresh soil every spring, and occasionally it can be shifted into a pot of larger size. Also give some liquid manure during spring and summer, or the season of greatest growth.

Diseased Geraniums.

The accounts which have appeared in our pages in regard to diseased leaves of geraniums have brought a response from a correspondent who claims to check the progress of the disease by the use of salt water. Two tablespoonsful of salt, or a little more, is dissolved in a quart of water, and the foliage is dipped into it so as to wet every part; the plants are then rinsed in fresh water. It is a remedy easily tried, and we hope to hear from those who may use it.



Scarlet Flowered Plant in November.

In Vick's Magazine for August, 1893, I find in an article on "Flowers Sown by Nature," written by E. W. B., Carthage, Mo., an allusion to "sheets of scarlet castilleia, or prairie fire." In November, 1893, as I came westward from Boston on the Fitchburg and Erie Railroad, I saw by the track side, growing wild, apparently, in a rather damp place, though not swampy, in Western Pennsylvania, I think, as we were passing oil regions, just before and afterward, a shrub which was a mass of the most brilliant scarlet imaginable. I thought of Moses and the burning bush as I strained my eyes to grasp all its beauty possible in so fleeting a view, but could only ascertain that it was a shrub two and one-half feet high and one in width; all bloom and little or no foliage. But it was so startlingly beautiful, beyond anything I have ever seen of the kind, that I cannot forget it, and have at last ventured to ask through your excellent Magazine it some resident of Northwestern Pennsylvania, or possibly Western New York, can tell me what it was, and if I can get a root or some seeds of it for "love or money." The only description I ever saw at all like it is that by your Missouri correspondent above mentioned. I find no castilleia in any of a dozen florists' catalogues, but shall be most grateful for any information through our invaluable Vick's. The color of the shrub I saw—or it may have been a tall growing plant—was a shade darker than the salvia, and in one solid mass of bloom, not in spikes. Surely such a prize could not fail of appropriation by florists, but under what name? It is not rhododendron. The flowers were not nearly so large, and were far brighter.

MRS. W. W. P.

Pruning Moss Roses.

Do Moss Roses need as close pruning as the Hybrids? F. L. P.

The object of pruning roses is to keep up a supply of new wood, since the flowers are borne only on the wood of the current season's growth. Moss roses, therefore, in common with all other kinds, need pruning. How much is best to prune any particular kinds of roses, or even any particular plants, depends to some extent on the strength of the plants. As a rule, weak plants, or weak growing varieties, need more severe pruning than strong ones. Again, if one wishes large specimens of roses he will prune more severely than if he desires a large number at the expense of size of the individual blooms. As most moss roses are more highly prized in the bud, or at least in a half-opened state, the object of size is of secondary importance; therefore, with a well developed, thrifty bush, moderate pruning can be adopted. At least this can be the course for a time. But if it should be seen by the short growth of the young shoots that the plant is losing in vigor, then a different course must be taken and greater quantity of wood removed at the annual pruning. How to prune any particular rose plant is a matter of judgment, and the plant itself should indicate to the experienced eye how it should be treated.

Insect Pests.

No doubt I am asking questions that you have answered many times, but you must pardon this as I have not previously had the advantage of your Magazine. I am very much troubled with scales, particularly on my ivies and oleanders. Everything I gave them they seemed to grow fat on, and in utter despair I made a bonfire of the latter and cut the ivies off close to the ground. They are sprouting nicely, but so are the scales. Almost a worse plague is the mealy bug. My asclepias, begonias, fuschias, etc., are not to be rid of them, no matter what I may try. The plants most infested I have thrown in the fire; the others I treated to a dose of kerosene emulsion with nearly the same result. The mealy bug is no more, but I fear my plants are there also. After my mother's death I removed all her roses to my own garden. Regularly each year they have a crop of mildew and nothing more. They are planted at the east side, and have rich, light soil, what there is of it, for the yard was first filled with yellow clay.

With what can I make my bulb beds look respectable during the summer? Geraniums won't do, as I

dig up the bulbs when trying to plant them. Can I cut off the leaves of the bulbs, or must I wait until they die down of themselves?

This is the second summer that I have planted a good piece of my vegetable garden with potatoes, to reap bugs. With what can I best fight them?

I have an excellent place for my winter plants, and they are kept clean. I spray them every day. Pinks, smilax, hyacinths, etc., showed better than with any florist in the city.

E. W.

Bloomington, Ill

One of the best materials for the destruction of scale insects is kerosene emulsion. There are different kinds of scale insects which infest different plants, and some are more easily affected by the kerosene than others. The great trouble is to get the liquid underneath the scale and in contact with its soft part,—this difficulty exists especially with some kinds of scale infesting some kinds of trees. Now, in the case of house plants, where one can get at every part, an old tooth-brush can be used, and the emulsion thoroughly brushed in under the scales, and then the stems can be again brushed with soap and water, and any remaining scales be pushed off with the thumb nail, and thus a plant can be entirely cleaned. The same course can be pursued with the mealy bug, or one can take a little water-color or camel-hair brush and dipping it into alcohol touch each mealy bug and kill it at once. A little thorough work will settle the whole matter, and after the plants are once clean they can be kept so with a little care.

If the garden soil is not suitable for the roses a bed should be made for them specially by removing the soil for a depth of eighteen inches and filling in with good turfy loam and old stable manure; some bone dust, also, would be good. Mix all together, and every fall or spring dig in some old manure. Roses are heavy feeders, and to have them do well they should have plenty of manure every year.

After bulbs are done blooming they can be taken up with a spade, removing soil and bulb on the spade, and setting the clump in some spare space or corner in the garden. In this way they can all be lifted and set together and thus left until they ripen, and then they can be shaken out and placed away in a cool, dry, shady place or room to remain until planting time again in September.

placed away in a cool, dry, shady place or room to remain until planting time again in September. There is no difficulty in destroying potato bugs with Paris green. One pound of Paris green mixed with 200 gallons of water is the proper proportion, or one ounce to twelve gallons, sprinkling it on the infested plants. One pound of the green can be thoroughly mixed with 100 pounds of plaster or air-slaked lime, or one ounce to six pounds, dredging on the mixture.

Huckleberry-Cranberry-June Berry.

Can huckleberries be raised on upland, if so, who has plants for sale? Is the Juneberry anything like huckleberry? Are the cranberries which are offered by different firms like the cranberry of commerce?

Huckleberries can not be very successfully raised in the garden, though two varieties, Vaccinium vacillans, and V. corymbosum, are sometimes cultivated. The Juneberry is a variety of the shadbush. It is said to be a good substitute for the huckleberry; it is easily raised, and may be desirable for the fruit garden. The plants of both the common small cranberry of commerce and the large or bush cranberry are offered by dealers. Though the common cranberry has been raised in the garden, it is not adapted to this mode of cultivation, and is satisfactory only when planted on low ground which can be flooded.

MARVELOUS PICTURES.

The Chicago Exposition Reproduced.
THE "WHITE CITY" AS IT WAS.

Special Offer to Readers of Vick's Magazine.

Thousands and thousands were the photographs taken at the World's Fair, all sizes and shapes, and to those who did not have the privilege of going, as well as to those who did, these photographs are revelations and reminders of the glories of "The White City," as it was reverently and yet truthfully called. To have a complete set of photographs would cost a small fortune, and here is where engraving comes in for our readers.

The trouble with nearly ninety-nine per cent. of the views which have been reproduced in engravings (so as to bring them within reach of all) is that they are small and lack effect in detail. Large pictures were wanted and of uniform size, and this took cameras that he alone possessed at the proper time. Mr. W. H. Jackson the most famous and successful photographer, in taking large views, in the whole world, succeeded in getting 80 views, each II x I4 inches in size, and so highly were they appreciated that one hundred wealthy people in Chicago and connected with the Exposition, subscribed and paid \$1,000 each for a book containing these 80 choicest views! Surely this was an edition de luxe and they now grace the homes of millionaires.

and they now grace the homes of millionaires. The publishers of VICK'S MAGAZINE are enabled to (amongst all the horticultural and agricultural publications) offer exclusively to our readers, and to the great army who ought to be our regular subscribers, these delicate half-tone engravings on the finest plate paper, at a price which is simply nominal and entirely within the reach of everyone.

They are more beautiful, soft and lasting than a photograph could possibly be; they are printed with the highest cost inks, upon the highest cost plate paper, from those perfections of the engraver's art, "half-tone" copper plates, giving, as nothing else does or can do (so far as discovered) a soft and yet life-like expression to every part of the picture.

Only a faint idea can be obtained of the extraordinary beauty and richness of these by the engraving which appears on the third page of the cover. This is a partial view of the Women's Building, and the picture there shown is about one-tenth of the size of the regular pictures! The writer of this article has had a long practical knowledge of printing and engraving and can earnestly and enthusiastically endorse with the highest enconium these "White City Artfolios," as they are called, to each and every family into whose home Vick's Magazine finds its way.

Leave out if you will all that constituted the attractions inside the buildings, and preserve for the generations, yet unborn, these mute but impressive evidences of the age which you dear reader lived in—whether you saw them or not. With these, one can imagine they have been there, so perfect are they in detail and breadth of artistic perfection.

Parts 2 and 3 are offered this month. The first contains A General View from Lake Michigan, showing the grand view; the Agricultural Building from the colonade, simply magnificent in detail; The Fire Engine Boats playing huge streams of water on the Agricultural Building, very realistic; A General View from the Illinois Building, showing several of the immense buildings, the lagoon and wooded island with intense fidelity and effect. Part 3 contains a magnificent group of the three finest State Buildings, viz: Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania, the later being a model of Independence Hall in Philadelphia; The Spanish Caravals, perfect models of the vessels in which Columbus made his voyage of discovery; The Golden Door of the Transportation Building; The Obelisk, and the vista beyond it, tæking in the lagoon and several great buildings.



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FRUIT SEASON AT THE NORTH.

At this time, May 16, we are not yet out of danger of frosts in this locality, or in most portions of the Northern States. The outlook for the present, however, is excellent for a good crop of cherries, plums, pears, apples and grapes. A light frost occurred here last night, and possibly in some places may have been severe enough to do some damage. A fortnight later and the fruit crop will probably be safe from damage from cold. Whether calamities of any kind are in reserve we can know only when they make their appearance. A good fruit year this season will be appreciated by both producer and consumer. A full apple crop is especially desirable.

OATS AS A WINTER MULCH.

For several years the writer has been using crimson clover as a green crop to plow under for fertilizing the soil of a vineyard. Some excellent results have been obtained with it. Sowed the last of July or first of August it becomes strong enough to go into the winter in good condition. Yet the freezing and thawing of the ground at times when bare of snow would cause some loss. Casting about for some remedy for this trouble the idea of a light seeding of oats suggested itself. This was done last year immediately after sowing the clover seed and then both lightly harrowed. The result was a good catch of both clover and oats. The oats made good growth, and when killed by the severe frosts of the late autumn lay down over the clover and assisted in holding the snow, and protected the clover in the early spring. The result is apparently all that could be desired, and the practice of this method of protection will be continued.

In this connection it may be stated that oats have proved a valuable winter mulch for strawberries. The oats are sown the last of August or first of September, in time for the early fall rains, scattering the seed over all the ground.

As soon as heavy frosts come the oats are killed and fall down, making a fine, even mulch, and affording the strawberry plants the protection needed.

CINCINNATI FLOWER MARKET.

Cincinnati has a new building called the Jabez-Elliott Flower Market. It is a handsome building, constructed mostly of glass and iron. It is devoted exclusively to the sale of plants and flowers, which are brought in every day. It is said to be the only building of the kind in the United States, and there is only one other of the kind in the world, and that is in Paris. It is 200 feet long and 38 feet wide, and contains over forty stands which rent from forty to twenty dollars a year. The Cincinnati Florists' Society is also provided with handsome rooms above. It was built in commemoration of Jabez Elliott, a gardener, with funds (\$15,000) provided by his widow in her will. During Easter Saturday all day long this market was crowded, and people after buying plants and flowers were obliged to carry them above their heads in order to avoid the jam. The aggregate sales for this day reached five thousand dollars. Passing through this beautiful building on Saturday afternoons one can easily imagine he is attending a flower show.

ANOTHER FRUIT TREE ENEMY.

Fruit growers throughout the country have now another enemy to dread in the San Jose scale, which has found its way from California to orchards in Virginia, Maryland and Florida, and as it spreads with considerable rapidity may soon be found in other widely separate localities. There is every good reason to suppose that it has already gained foothold at points where it has not yet been detected. In California this insect, which originally came from Chile, S. A., has done a great amount of mischief and destruction, infesting all kinds of deciduous fruit trees except the apricot and the Black Tartarian cherry. If the insect once gets full possession of an orchard it effects its destruction. It is similar in appearance and general habits to the oyster-shell bark louse which infests our apple orchards, though increasing much more rapidly and being far more injurious. The Department of Agriculture at Washington has made examination of all the cases yet known at the East, and has issued Circular No. 3, second series, from the Division of Entomology, describing the insect and its habits and effects, and giving instructions in regard to the best means of combatting it. Fruit growers generally should apply to the Department for this circular and inform themselves of the threatened danger.

DR. C. V. RILEY.

For the last twenty-five years Dr. Riley has given his attention exclusively to entomological science and its economical application. For the last fifteen years he has been at the head of the Entomological Division of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, and his labors have been of the highest value. Economic entomology had made but a small beginning when Dr. Riley commenced his labors, but through his persistent work, patient research and careful observations and experiments, in connection with his exact and lucid writings, he has laid the whole community under obligations to him. His

example has inspired many other observers. One after another of the insect foes of our fields, gardens and orchards have been dealt with and the means of their extermination acquired. The leader in all this great movement has been Dr. Riley. He now resigns as the head of the department which he has built up, and expresses a desire that Mr. L. O. Howard, his assistant, should be his successor, and it is to be hoped that he will receive the appointment. Dr. Riley, who is now but a little more than fifty years of age, will still continue work in his own way in his chosen field. We shall continue to expect his writings in the various publications to which he has been accustomed to contribute.

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE GUN BEARER. A War Novel. By Edward A. Robinson and George W. Wall, Authors of "The Disk," etc. Illustrated by James Fagan. 12mo. 300 pages. Handsomely Bound in Cloth. Price \$1.25. Paper Cover 50 cents. Robert Bonner's Sons, Publishers.

The majority of war novels are disappointing, owing largely to the bias of authors and the general inacuracy of description. But this book is an exception, and is remarkably free from these defects. After perusing its pages one is convinced that it is all that is claimed for it by the publishers. Its freedom from exaggeration and anything like vainglory renders it an intensely interesting narrative of the events connected with the movements of Sherman's army, commencing at Buzzard's Roost and faithfully recording the fortunes of that army in contesting the ground with the enemy foot by foot for many months. It also graphically describes the movements and battles of Thomas' corps at Nashville while forming a part of Schofield's command, and culminates with the desperate battle of Franklin, where General Schofield with ten thousand men wrestled with General Hood and three times as many Confederates. The hero, who was a private in the ranks of a Kentucky regiment, is wounded in this battle while in the act of capturing a battle flag. He is carried off the field, and finally recovers under the care of his mother and the girl who has been the star of his hopes during the trying days of soldering. Thewhole narrative has a peculiar fascination for veteran soldiers, and revives the recollection of many incidents, dangers and hardships of soldier life now becoming indistinct by reason of intervening years.

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Headache Almost Continually.
Last April I concluded to try Hood's Sarsaparilla and now my troubles are all gone. I gave

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Cures

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HOOD'S PILLS are the best family cathartic, gentle and effective. Try a box. 25 cents.

JUNE JOTTINGS.

BY EBEN E. REXFORD, SHIOCTON, WIS.



The robin, in the cherry trees, Swings by his little nest, and

The fruit grow red in sum-

mer's sun, And counts the red globes, one

by one,
While bubbling from his silver
throat
His wordless songs in rapture

float.

O, shall not we, this summer

day,
Be glad with him? Dull care
away!

Have you given your roses proper attention this spring? If not, it is not too late to do it now. Every season a liberal quantity of well decomposed cow manure should be dug in about their roots. They are great eaters, and it pays to feed them well. They are like human beings to a certain extent.

The enemies of the rose will soon be here. Last summer I found the rose-chafer at work on my plants before I had suspected his arrival. I promptly prepared an emulsion of kerosene and milk and applied it to the bushes very thoroughly

with a syringe, taking particular pains to have the emulsion reach the under side of the leaves. The chafer took his departure at once, and was not heard of again.

I afterward tried the same emulsion on worms that were inclined to spoil my roses, with entire success. I have never used anything that gave more general satisfaction in fighting the enemies of plants out or in-doors.

A cheap emulsion is prepared in this wise: One part kerosene, two parts slightly sour milk. Agitate thoroughly with a syringe until a union takes place, and a white jelly-like substance is the result. Add to one part of this jelly twelve to fifteen parts of water, and apply with sprayer. Let the application be a thorough one if you want it to accomplish its purpose.

Because the oil and milk will not unite readily without rapid agitation this emulsion is difficult to prepare when there is not a syringe at hand. But it is very effective, and if you have not a syringe to use in its preparation an eggbeater can be used where small quantities are made.

I not long ago saw a formula for a new kerosene emulsion in the American Florist. I have used it and am greatly pleased with it. The fir-tree oil is somewhat expensive and not very easy to get, but it does good work in combination with kerosene. I find it very effective in the greenhouse. It is much easier to prepare than the one spoken of above. One part fir-tree oil is used to five parts kerosene. A slight agitation causes them to unite. For scale and mealy bug use twenty parts water to one part of the above mixture. For green fly forty parts of water. The florist recommending its use says that he has never had any plant damaged by it, and that it seems to cure and prevent mildew. While admitting its greater cost, he says that the perfection and ease of preparation of the remedy outweighs the item of economy which many would take into consideration.

Every home ought to have its lawn, even if it is no more than a wee bit of greensward between the front door and the street. How cheerful, how restful to the eye, it is when well cared for. If it is small don't spoil it by cluttering it up with shrubbery. A smooth, velvety piece of sward, if small in size, is much prettier

without any shrubs than it can possibly be when all broken up by them.

Whoever neglects to provide a bed of hardy poppies will be sorry for it when the neighbor's yard is all aflame with color from the charming things. When they were first introduced I was somewhat skeptical about their hardiness, but a thorough trial has convinced me that they are as desirable for the North as Coreopsis lanceolata, and that is saying a good deal. My poppies had no protection but snow. They were ready to grow as soon as the snow was gone, and before the end of April they were budded.

Though it seems a long time to fall, it is not too early to begin to get ready for it. Get a compost heap together in some out-of-the-way corner, and add to it, from time to time, such material as will make good potting soil when decomposed. Turn it over occasionally and give the air a chance to get to all parts of it. It is easy to get a sufficient quantity together to pot a great many plants when the time to use it comes.

If you have no good place out of doors for your house plants, and you do not care to keep them indoors through the summer, get the man or boys of the family to set four 'posts a little taller than your head and nail some strips around them. Then tack on lath, or in case this is not at hand, a thin cotton cloth, and you will have all the shade and shelter your plants require, and they will be sure to get all the air they need, besides having a lounging place, or summer house. Make it a trifle ornamental and it will be a constant pleasure to the eye.

VIOLET CULTURE.

It is certain that some kinds of soil and some situations are much better suited to violet cultivation than others, and this may, in part, account for the ill-success sometimes met with. But, after all, the violet is not a fastidious plant, and under proper treatment may be made to succeed on soils of a widely different character. I am favored with a deep and somewhat retentive soil, which enables me to-grow violets with but little attention in the summer as regards watering and syringing them, which on thinner soils is a burdensome matter.

At the end of the month of March, or thereabouts, when flowering is past or passing, dig up the old plants and pull them to pieces, so as to get the best of the young single crowns. As showery weather is best for this operation, some weeks may pass by without a favorable day, which seriously interferes with the success of the work, and to obviate this I would recommend the dibbling the runners or crowns into some good soil placed in a cold frame rather thickly. Here they are independent of the weather, and

their needs can be attended to in the way of sprinkling the foliage, so as to keep them fresh, and shading from bright sunshine. When thus treated roots soon form, after which the plants may be gradually inured to fuller light and greater amount of ventilation, drawing off the lights day and night. A spot for growing the plants during the summer should be chosen that is shaded from the mid-day sun. The aftertreatment consists in hoeing the ground to kill weeds, affording water if the soil should get dry, and, above all things, keeping all the runners cut off as fast as they appear.

Double-flowered violets, of which Marie Louise is the form that is most commonly grown at present, and one of the best, should be lifted from the open ground and replanted in the cold frames about the end of the month of September, where they will yield a supply of flowers, in favorable weather, until April. It is very necessary to continue to pinch off the runners, so long as any are made, whilst in the frames.

Where very large flowers are in request, the following method yields very good results: Procure some good loam and stack it the previous autumn in layers with rotten manure, in quantity of about one-fifth the bulk of the loam. By the following June the grass roots will have perished, and it is fit for use. This heap should be chopped down with a spade and the soil placed to the depth of about nine inches in the frame in which the violets are to be planted, ordinary garden soil being used beneath. After firming it and making level, the rooted runners, which have been prepared in the cold frames, may be transferred to this one; and if they are kept free from runners, and in other ways treated the same as those in the open garden, they will succeed excellently. As these plants will have to flower where they are grown, the frames should be situated where full sun reaches them the whole day. Under this method I do not find the violet's worst enemy, red spider, at all troublesome, and the flowers are the finest I have ever had.

The violet does best in a moderately rich, moisture-holding. loamy compost, with no rank manure within reach of the roots. The planting should be firmly done, crowding of the plants not allowed, and but little space between the lights and the plants permitted; therefore the foundation of the bed must not be of a yielding character, and for this purpose nothing is worse than manure or tree leaves.—C. WARDEN, Clarendon, in Gardeners' Chronicle.

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THE AMERICAN BICYCLE.

HEN one considers the present extensive use of the bicycle in almost every part of the United States it seems remarkable that half a generation ago the first American made "wheel" had not come into existence. The bicycle, considered as distinct from the old velocipede, came into use in England in 1869, but did not make its advent in America until nine years later. It is true a single machine was made in this county in 1877, for Colonel Albert A. Pope, of Boston, but it was in 1878 that the industry was actually begun, the Pope Manufacturing Company having made fifty bicycles in that year. They were modeled upon one of the best English machines, the "Duplex Excelsior." It was not long before the company devised new patterns of its own, embodying various original improvements. Colonel Pope had full faith in the success of the bicycle in this country as a practical and popular road machine, and it was soon proved that his predictions were well founded. The success of his company, and the rapid developement of a general interest in cycling, led others to engage in the business.

Slightly previous to the first manufacture of bicycles in this country there was a small importation of English machines, and the importing business gradually developed to large proportions. The American manufacturers, however, more than kept pace with the foreign trade, when the years 1887 and 1888 ushered in a new era in bicycling, caused by the introduction of the rear-driving safety.

In 1887 the Overman Wheel Co., of Boston,

had brought out a machine of this type, and

other makers, who had already been perfecting designs, brought out safeties in the following year. The result was not merely a large supplanting of the former type, now in distinction called the "Ordinary," but it brought bicycling called the "Ordinary," but it brought breyeling into favor with many people who had hitherto been deterred from it, an advantage very largely increased by the introduction of pneumatic tires a couple of seasons later. A very important phase of the new era was the development of bicycling for women, who had been before this limited to the comparatively heavy tricycle, and thus placed at a disadvantage. Practically the leading manufacturers now produce special pat-terns for ladies' use, and it is safe to say that the present number of riders of this sex is larger present number of riders of this sex is larger than the total number of wheelmen in the country ten years ago. That there is a peculiar fascination about a bicycle no one who watches the silent swiftness can doubt, and contrary to the general impression, the average woman learns to ride very easily and quickly, and when she once becomes mistress of the situation and catched the reaching and the control she is out to gets her machine under full control, she is apt to become more enthusiastic over its possibilities than her wheeling brother.

As the popularity of the wheel increased many new makes were placed on the market, the resulting competition bringing improvements of all kinds to the fore in numberless variety. The simple yet strong diamond frame came first, followed by improvements in construction from time to time as the manufacturers learned where the greatest strains should be provided for, and where the weight could be reduced without dan-ger. The clumsy looking pneumatic tires have done much, with their cushioned ease to lessen the sudden strains that the old style wheels were subject to, making possible the gradual reduc-tions in weight which have evolved the strong swift road wheels of today, weighing from 28 to

35 pounds, and the feather weight track racers on which the records are made.

The many makers, all working to make and keep a reputation, have put their best brains and their most skillful work into the modern bicycle, and many kinds of wheels can rightly claim to and many kinds of wheels can rightly claim to be the best that can be made. Prominent among these are the Columbias, Victors, Crescents, Imperials, Monarchs, Waverlys, and Walpoles, and such English makes as the Raleigh and Humber. All first class high grade wheels are a safe investment of the money they cost. Certainly safe, for what other investment yields health as well as pleasure? None but the wheelman or wheelwoman knows the peculiar sense of exhilirating freedom that a light, strong wheel exhilirating freedom that a light, strong wheel, supported by air, can give. Literally the wheel-man of today rides "on the wings of the wind." The bicycle, as now used by both men and women, has become an essential factor in the

than the common carriage. In nearly every city and town of the United States, excepting a few particularly unfavored localities, it has come into use for business, health and pleasure. To esti-mate the number of bicycles now used in this country would be a difficult matter, but the num-ber would be among the hundreds of thousands, representing a purchasing cost of tens of millions of dollars.

The benefits of this popular use of the wheel do not accrue to the manufacturers and riders alone. It has been left to wheelmen to arouse the public to the true conditions of our highways, and forcibly call attention to the evils of our road systems. As a result there has been inaugurated a widespread movement for better roads, and the bicycleists, especially the League of American Wheelmen, are to be thanked for various efficient legislative bills prepared and pushed with this object.

It is hard to say where the improvements in bicycle manufacture will stop, and it is equally hard to say what is left that can be improved on, for it really seems as if the light wheels of the present day, with diamond frames, dust-proof present day, with diamond frames, dust-proof ball-bearing and pneumatic tires, were the perfection of strength and ease. The slight care required by a bicycle, coupled with its ability to easily outstrip a horse on the road for either long or short distances, makes it perhaps the most useful as well as pleasureable invention of modern times. In closing, let us give you one word of advice: If you see your friend has bought a wheel, as he probably has, go thou and do likewise.

An Endorsement of "The Page."

I.OCKTOWN, N. J., Feb. 8, 1894.

Page Woven Wire Fence Co., Adrian, Mich.:
GENTLEMEN—Yours of January 29 received.
The Page Wire Fence I put up last March is on a public road between Flemington and Locktown, and attracts considerable attention, as there town, and attracts considerable attention, as there is nothing like it in this vicinity. I have seen many wire fences, but have yet to find one that equals the Page for beauty and utility, at the same price or at a lower price. Nothing but hard times prevents me from ordering 100 rods of your 11-58 the coming spring, but if I am blessed with sufficient prosperity I will do so next fall. Yours sincerely, C. C. FOWLER.

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Sweet purple lilacs. What scents of spring around thee cling What memories bring thy blossoming, Sweet lilacs,-

Fragrant, purple lilacs,

That bloom by mother's door.

Oh, the lilacs, lovely lilacs;

The murmuring breeze, the hum of bees, And whispering trees, I hear in these

Fragrant, purple lilacs,

That bloom by mother's door.

Oh, the lilacs, lovely lilacs

Sweet purple lilacs. In childhood's May, long passed away, I loved to stray among these gay Sweet lilacs,-

Fragrant, purple lilacs,
That bloom by mother's door.

Oh, the lilacs, lovely lilaes;

Sweet purple lilacs. Old Time doth move, in silent groove, So swift and smooth. And yet I love Sweet lilacs,—

Fragrant, purple lilacs,

That bloom by mother's door.

Oh, the lilacs, lovely lilacs;

My spring has passed away, my hair is

turning gray,
My winter has come to stay, and yet I love

Fragrant, purple lilacs,

That bloom by mother's door. -Walter A. Weaver.

PEACHES AND POTASH.

R. SMITH, who has been detailed by the Agricultural Department for a number of years to investigate the cause of the socalled "yellows" in peach trees, and to advise a remedy, has, after years of practical work, given up in despair. That the disease is accompanied by multitudes of bacterial forms is evident, but that any of these organism is the direct cause of the disease has not been proved. No remedy has yet been found for a tree really attacked by the yellows, and the axe and the fine saw seem the only means for checking it. But in all the peach growing districts there are thousands of unhealthy yellow looking trees that some have assumed to have the disease. But their condition is really due to the ravages of the root aphis, or to the exhaustion in the soil of elements needed for the successful growth of the trees. Now, in all of our coast country the great lack of the old cultivated soils, and, in fact, of all of our coast soils, is potash. It is well known that all fruit trees are large users of potash, and when by their continued growth they have drawn heavily upon the supply, al-

ready scanty in these light soils, the trees suffer from the lack, and the careless observer at once says "yellows," while really the trouble is starvation. It is also well known that trees and plants of any kind when in weakened growth are more readily attacked by insects. And when the millions of root aphides begin to feed upon the roots of the already weakened trees, and they get yellow and die, those who cannot diagnose a disease correctly say it is a sure case of "yellows." Now, while a liberal use of potash may not check a genuine case of yellows, it is certain that heavy dressings of kainit or muriate of potash will bring into thrifty growth thousands of yellow, sickly trees, that are only being starved, and will put them in a condition to resist the insect attacks, or even to resist the real disease.

That soil conditions have a good deal to do with the peach yellows is evident. Several years ago, when at the University of Illinois, Prof. Burrill showed me a tree which he had brought from New Jersey, with all the evidences of an advanced stage of yellows. 'I saw it in the autumn, after it had been one summer planted in the rich, black prairie soil. It had started a staunch and healthy growth instead of the wiry twigs on it when it came, and was evidently growing out of it. Prof. B. showed me a lot of healthy peach trees which he said he had vainly tried to inoculate from the diseased tree, but the disease would not go on in his soil. Of course I know it is an old story that potash will cure a diseased tree, but I am more and more convinced that there would be less of yellows if kainit was freely used upon peach orchards. It may not cure a diseased tree, but a plentiful supply of potash will keep the tree in such robust health that disease will have but little chance at it

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ASPARAGUS.

THIS article, which we published some years since, was a prize essay written by W. C. Steele, and it is here reproduced by request, as it treats of a subject of interest to a large number of readers,

The first thing to be done by one who wishes to grow asparagus for market is to see if he has any soil that is suitable. It should be a light loam and as deep as it is possible to obtain. Asparagus will grow on almost any soil, but I do not think that its cultivation will prove profitable on a heavy clay soil, nor where a stiff clay subsoil comes up within a few inches of the sur-

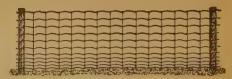
subsoil comes up within a tew inches of the surface. It can be made profitable on very light sand by the use of plenty of manure.

The next thing is to arrange for a supply of plants. These can either be purchased from some nurseryman or can be grown from the seed on one's own land. Dry asparagus seed when sown in the open ground is very slow to germinate, and it is difficult to prevent the weeds from taking possession of the ground before the asparagus plants appear. My own plan has been to soak the seed in hot water until swollen and softened before sowing. It should be sown in long rows a foot or more apart, so as to be tended with a hand or horse cultivator. tended with a hand or horse cultivator. If a few radish or cabbage seeds are sown with the asparagus they will come up at once and show where the rows are so that they can be cultivated before the asparagus appears. Some growers, after soaking the seed put it into a coarse bag and bury it deep in the ground until it begins to sprout and then when sown it comes up immediately. Whichever plan you adopt be sure and keep the plants clear of weeds through the season. As you are growing the plants for the season. As you are growing the plants for your own use you will want them to be as large and strong as possible, therefore sow plenty of seed, and then when weeding them thin out the plants to about three inches apart. To make good plants the soil must be very rich, so do not be stingy with manure.

During the season, while your plants are growing, you should prepare the permanent bed. It is not necessary, as formerly supposed, to dig out all the earth to the depth of two or three feet and then fill in the bottom with all manner of trash and fertilizing material, such as old boots, bones, etc. The land must be deeply plowed and thoroughly pulverized. It cannot be made too rich. With the possible exception of rhubarb, asparagus is the most gross feeder of any vegetable in cultivation. A successful marany vegetable in cultivation. A successful market gardener in Illinois, writing some years ago upon the raising of asparagus for market, used the following language: "The profits are just in proportion to the amount of manure used, which should be more than most people think enough." This is strictly true. He also said, "study economy in the processes of labor, using the horse instead of the hand, and the rake in stead of the fingers whenever possible, but he stead of the fingers whenever possible, but be unsparing of manure." No better advice than this could possibly be given, and the grower may expect that his success will be exactly in proportion to the fidelity with which he follows these directions. The kind of manure and its mechanical condition when applied to an old bed are not material. Fresh stable manure may be used, no matter how coarse so long as it can be plowed under. But in preparing the ground for a new bed fine well rotted manure is to be preferred. Asparagus always starts into growth very early in the season, and the bed should be plowed late in the fall that it may dry out and be ready to work as early as possible in the

The proper distance between the rows and between the plants in the rows is a matter of dispute. Years ago the rule was three feet between the rows and from twelve to eighteen inches between the plants. This is universally conceded now to be too close; two by three or four feet, usually the last, is the closest planting allowed. Many set their plants four feet

Continued on page 125.



A New Broom Sweeps Clean.

Any kind of wire fence looks nicely when first put up, and it will usually turn stock while new and tight. Whether it will continue to look well and do good service for any length of time, depends almost wholly on its elasticity. The PAGE is practically the only elastic fence on the market, the only master of contraction and expansion, therefore the safest to buy and use.

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HOME SALESMEN

Continued from page 124

apart each way and cultivate the bed both ways. The growers of the celebrated Oyster Bay as paragus make their rows five or six feet apart and set the plants two or more feet apart in the rows. In planting the crowns should be set at least three inches under ground, and in many places four or five inches would be better.

The first season all that is necessary is to keep the bed clear of weeds and the surface mellow. In most parts of the North winter protection is a great benefit. If there is no danger of injury to the plants from severe cold still a heavy mulch, put on before the ground freezes will keep all, or nearly all, the frost out of the soil, so that the bed will start very much earlier in the spring. A thick coating of fresh stable manure is the best possible mulch, and that is also an excellent way to apply manure. The coarsest of the litter should be raked off in the spring and the balance plowed under. This may be supplemented by the application of a few hundred pounds per acre of some good commercial fertilizer. Ground bone is one of the best.

The question whether salt is needed on an asparagus bed is by no means settled. While some claim that it is necessary and should be applied every year, others say that asparagus does not need salt any more than any other vegetable. Without undertaking to decide the question, it is certain that asparagus is not injured by the application of sufficient salt to destroy almost all other vegetation near it. If not specially useful as a fertilizer, the free use of salt on an asparagus bed is an advantage; it has a tendency to prevent the growth of weeds, and by attracting moisture from the atmosphere helps to carry the bed safely through a drouth. Coarse or refuse salt may be applied every spring, and enough can be used to make the surface of the soil look quite white. Old brine from pork or beef barrels may often be obtained without expense from butchers, but care should be used in applying it, for it is possible to kill asparagus roots with brine, as I know from personal experience.

In the spring run a cultivator along the top of each row two or three times and then harrow, that the soil over the plants may be very loose. Between the rows stir the soil often enough to keep it mellow and clear of weeds until the tops shade the ground. The second year a little asparagus may be cut, but be very careful not to continue the cutting too long. The third year a little more may be used, but a full crop cannot be expected until the fourth year. It is a good plan each year, when you stop cutting, to apply at that time a liberal dressing of stable manure or fertilizer and cultivate it in; the object of this is to insure a strong growth of tops and roots during the summer and fall, for the amount the next crop depends upon the growth this fall. In autumn, just before the seed balls are ripe enough to drop off easily, mow all the tops, haul them away and burn them; otherwise the ripe seed falling upon the bed will grow there, and young asparagus plants are very undesirable weeds anywhere and especially so in an aspara-

Oyster Bay asparagus is very popular in New York city. It is all white, being cut eight or ten inches under the ground as soon as the top shows itself above the surface. They make their rows five or six feet apart and set the crowns very deep under ground. Every spring they plow up the earth between the rows until it is very mellow, and then with plows and other tools specially contrived for the purpose they ridge up the earth over the rows until the bed

ing sweet potatoes, except that the ridges are broader and are not sharp but rounded off rather flat. Though this blanched asparagus sells for a higher price in New York city, yet as it costs much more in time and labor to grow and gather

profitable than that grown in the ordinary way.

Asparagus should always be cut a little below the surface of the ground, if for no other reason than that the sharp stubs left may be out of the way. Asparagus knives are advertised which are quite broad and are sharpened across the end, and are intended to cut by shoving straight down against the stalks; but this form and all common knives become dull so soon that it is necessary to carry a whetstone constantly, and to use it every few minutes. Some of the large growers on Long Island use a common heavy knife having a few teeth, like saw teeth, filed into the edge near the point. Such a knife can be used for half a day without becoming too **Dull**.

The stalks must always be cut before the heads show any signs of breaking or branching out; the length should range from six to ten inches The size of the bunches must depend upon the market in which it is to be sold; for New York city they should be four or five inches in diameter, about seven or eight inches in length, and should weigh from three to three and a half pounds. To put such large bunches in good shape requires the use of a bunching machine, which costs from three to four dollars. In Western markets the size varies according to the taste of the growers. For Chicago market a good salable size is about three inches in diameter and from six to nine inches in length. Great pains should be taken to have the tops exactly even, and after the bunch is tied up the bottom should be cut off square, so that all the stalks will be exactly the same length. The bunches should be tied in two places, near the top and near the bottom. The tying material must be broad and soft, common twine will not do as it cuts into the stalks too much. I have seen it tied with strips of white cotton cloth, having the name of the grower printed upon them, so that every bunch sold advertised his business. Bass bark is one of the best tying materials, and is probably most commonly used.

If the crop is to be shipped to a distant market it is packed in crates with tight bottoms, but with slat sides and tops. The crate should be large enough to hold three or four dozen bunches, and just deep enough for one layer when standing upright. The asparagus should be per-fectly dry when put into the crate; this is indis-pensible, otherwise it will surely heat and spoil, and it should be packed so snugly as to prevent shaking about in the crate, which would probably cause the tender tops to be broken off, thus rendering the asparagus unsalable. Shippers from Charleston and other Southern ports often put a layer of perfectly dry moss over the bunches to protect the tops. When shipped a long dis-tance a layer of wet sand or moss in the bottom of the crate on which to set the bunches will help to keep them from wilting.

The profits of growing asparagus depends so much on soil, manure, cultivation and market, that it is difficult to fix on any reasonable aver-The range is all the way from \$100 to \$1000 per acre; the average is probably much nearer the first figure than the last. Usually, however, that is the fault of the grower. If he is stingy of manure and cultivation he illustrates the old adage, "He saves at the spigot and wastes at the bung-hole."

looks very much as if it were intended for plantit, I doubt if it would generally prove any more



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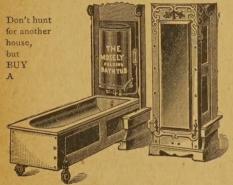
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novelties could be sent for, but she wanted gladiolus bulbs, Phlox Drummondii, petunias, zinnias and asters. These would make the back yard glow. Her husband often found her in the garden, and was apt to take hoe or spade and work with her. She was comforted to see the wrinkles and looks of care disappear. They took extra pains with their few simple kinds of flowers, and the garden was full of color and beauty. As time went on business picked up a little, and he said to his faithful wife: "My dear, you was right to have a garden. Working in it often drove the business cobwebs from my brain and made me see much clearer what to do."

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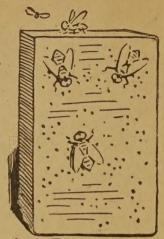
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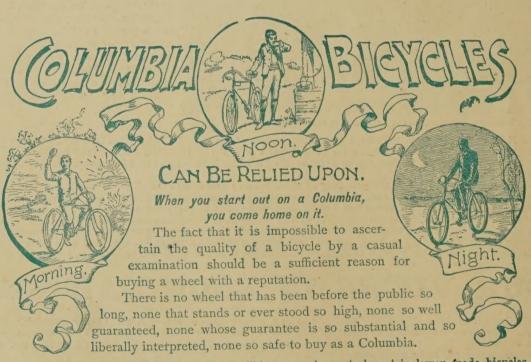
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